

Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARA-06 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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TAGS: PINR

SUBJ: INTERVIEW RE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN DR DURING TIME OF TRUJULLIO'S
ASSASSINATION

PASS TO ARA/LA/CAR, DIRECTOR JOHN R. BURKE, FROM BARFIELD

1. NEW YORK TIMES CORRESPONDENT DON SHAPIRO CALLED ME SATURDAY MORNING

JUNE 21 TO SAY HE WOULD LIKE TO CALL ON ME SO THAT I COULD "REMINISCE
ON

MY DAYS IN THE DOMINICAL REPUBLIC. RECEIVINGNO OBJECTION FROM THE FRONT

OFFICE, AN HAVING BEEN PREVIOUSLY AUTHORIZED IN 1972 BY THE DESK TO
TALK

TO AUTHOR FITZGERALD, I ANSWERED THE LIST OF QUESTION HE BROUGHT, TELE-

GRAPHED TO HIM FROM NEW YORK. THE PRINCIPAL QUESTIONS WITH THE ESSENCE

OF MY REPLIES FOLLOW:

A. WHAT WAS THE POLITICAL CLIMATE IN THE DR AT THE TIME OF THE
ASSASSINATION? - I LEFT THE DR ABOUT ONE MONTH BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION

BUT BEFORE I LEFT THE PLACE WAS RIFE WITH TALK OF CHANGE. THERE WAS A

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PLOT EXPOSED IN DECEMBER OR JANUARY BEFORE THE ASSASSINATION IN MAY IN

WHICH THE ACTION WAS TO TAKE PLACE AT A RODEO. CONGRESSMAN PORTER
MENTIONED THIS PLOT BEFORE IT WAS SCHEDULED TO TAKE PLACE AND THERE
WERE PERIODIC ATTEMPTS OR RUMORS OF ATTEMPTS FOR MANY YEARS.

B. DID THE EMBASSY KNOW THOSE WHO WERE PLOTTING? YES, THEY
WERE AMONG OUR NORMAL CONTACTS, PROFESSIONAL MEN PRIMARILY?

C. WHY DID THEY TALK TO U.S. OFFICIALS ABOUT SUCH THINGS? -
FOR A VARIETY OF REASONS. FOR ONE THING, AT THAT TIME THEY
HAD REASON TO BELIEVE THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT FRIENDLY
TO TRUJILLO CONSIDERING THE TALK OF HIS HAVING KIDNAPPED
A U.S. CITIZEN, MURPHEY, AND HAVING BROUGHT HIM TO THE DR WHERE
HE WAS KILLED BECAUSE OF HIS INVOLVEMENT IN ANOTHER KIDNAPPING
IN THE U.S. - THAT OF PROFESSOR GALINDEZ. ALSO, TRUJILLO HAD
BEEN ACCUSED OF THE ATTEMPTED ASSASSINATION OF A FRIENDLY
LATIN AMERICAN PRESIDENT, ROMULO BETANCOURT OF VENEZUELA, AND
DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WERE BROKEN BY THE UNITED STATES AND THE
OTHER ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES MEMBERS. I WOULD HAVE
BEEN SURPRISED IF THERE HAD BEEN NO SERIOUS PLANS TO DISPOSE
OF TRUJILLO CONSIDERING THE RECENT PROBLEMS, FINANCIAL AND
OTHERWISE, THAT WERE ASSOCIATED WITH HIS ADMINISTRATION.

THOSE IN THE BEST POSITION TO DO SOMETHING ABOUT IT WERE
ACQUIRING MORE REASONS TO DO SOMETHING. FOR THIS REASON, THE
U.S. HAD NO NEED TO ENGINEER A PLOT AGAINST TRUJILLO EVEN IF IT
HAD BEEN SO INCLINED.

D. DID THE CIA PROVIDE ANY TANGIBLE SUPPORT TO THE PLOTTERS?

- I DON'T KNOW.

2. COMMENT: I GOT THE IMPRESSION THAT THE LAST QUESTION WAS THE KEY
QUESTION AND THE PREVIOUS LINE OF QUESTIONING WAS MERELY A BUILDUP FOR
THE
"SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR" QUESTION.

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